

From: parasite@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I feel it necessary to take time out of my busy schedule to comment on this case which is of dire importance, especially with respect to the entirety of the computer world. The foundation of our society in this day and age, the very progress of science, rest very much upon this issue.

Microsoft is the greatest singular contributor to the means by which knowledge is distributed and disseminated across the word. Mind you, their software underlies a considerable portion of the internet, the very way by which this e-mail was delivered. By virtue of their profits alone, it is clear no other company has delivered so many essential and comprehensive software solutions. It is clear that the companies that stand to gain from any punishment of Microsoft all produced inferior products--the free market place made this abundantly clear. It would be impossible to rationally say that Microsoft prevented competition--so long as an arm of the government wasn't coercing people to use Microsoft's software. And indeed, this was not the case, the computer industry is one of the few havens from which the government had abstained taking such power, while Microsoft progressed ever higher, by viture of it's SOFTWARE alone.

I'm certain that you will receive a great many e-mail in support of GREATER punishment from Microsoft, especially those involved in computer/technical fields. The proposition of any further damning settlement, and even of the punishment Microsoft themselves proposed is a reprehensible perversion of morality. While I am myself seeking a degree in Computer Science -- I must warn you that the words of the others involved in computers do not speak for the masses for whom I so speak, and for whom Microsoft has always aimed its products.

Those who are involved in computers and oppose Microsoft have agendas behind their actions, with no moral or ethical basis for their arguments. They despise Microsoft because it is TOO good, and (for some) it threatens their jobs by making it possible for even a mediocre computer technician to handle what otherwise would be a task requiring exceeding technical expertise. This is analogous to a group of mathematicians asking the government to punish Texas Instruments for making calculators because they make advanced math problems more accessible to even those of a much lesser intellectual capacity.

Other's motivation may be simply that with Microsoft's continued existence, their own mediocrity cannot stand a chance. Whatever new fields arise in the computer industry, it is sure that Microsoft will

make it's best attempts pushing forth its best minds to forge onward with innovative new solutions. If, however, they are punished then those inferior solutions presented by much lesser companies will serve only to stagnate progress, and allow the mediocrites to bring the world down to their level.

I would now like to make a short analogy, and state that this is especially true because a company is not a faceless entity (as so many claim) but is a collaboration of individual minds seeking a specific objective, one which always entails fulfilling their customer's needs -- by necessity of existence and motive of profit. Now considering that a company is INDEED comprised of individuals it is therefore an extension of their individual rights to pursue wealth. Thus I would say this settlement is akin in EVERY facet to finding the person of most haughty moral status, and taking them into a courtroom -- and terribly decrying their deeds -- NOT because they weren't virtuous deeds, indeed -- I mean to say that their deeds were of the MOST virtuous type, but yet to decry them because their basking in the limelight of extreme virtue has prevented the morally inferior and lesser persons from having a chance in such light. This is the perversion of ANY settlement against Microsoft. Therefore I thoroughly oppose any and ALL settlements aside from an apology to Microsoft for the damage already caused by the likes of the United States government -- not on behalf of the people, but on behalf of those who are only jealous of Microsoft's success.

Thank you.

Justin Wilson
815 4th St. Apt 7
Bowling Green, OH 43402